(d) The document on Technology Mission on Coconut is being finalised.

Transfer of Disaster Management to Ministry of Home Affairs

3518. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disaster management has been transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what additional infrastructure the Ministry is going to provide for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rule specify the subjects to be handled by different Ministries and Departments of the Central Government. These Rules assign the subject of handling of natural calamities to the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

Drought in Karnataka

3519. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Central team was deputed by Government to assess severe drought situation in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of assessment made by the Central team and its recommendations; and

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has sought Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 894.65 crores; if so, the amount released so far and the details of steps proposed to be taken for the benefit of the drought affected people?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The team felt that deficiency of rainfall coupled with long dry spells resulted in drought like situation. According to the team, there is depletion of water tables, problem of availability of drinking water and need for generation of employment.

(c) The State Government has sought Central assistance of Rs. 903.45 crore. Entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2001-02 amounting to Rs. 58.72 crore has been released to the State besides 1 lakh MTs of foodgrains free of cost under Food for Work Programme. No decision for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund, if any, has yet been taken. Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government.

Inclusion of farmers in MSP fixation by CACP

3520. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has set up a regular Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP);

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Commission has decided to include farmers in fixation of Minimum Support Price; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the criteria for selection of farmers for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Agricultural Price Commission (APC) was set up in January, 1965 to provide advice on continuing basis, on agricultural price policy and price structure, in the context of the need to raise the agricultural production and give relief to the consumer. The Commission was made a permanent body in May, 1970 and later on in March, 1985 it was renamed as Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

(b) and (c) The present set up of CACP comprises seven members including a Chairman, two Members (Official), three members (Non-Official) and a Member Secretary. The Non-Official Members are non-Government persons and normally, eminent farmers with understanding of agricultural production and consumer problems are appointed to these posts. The appointment to the posts of member (Non-Official) in the CACP is made for a period of three years on contract basis.